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POPE MANGO

**A New, High Quality,
Late-Ripening Mango Variety**

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COVER PHOTO: Pope Mango, new H.A.E.S. variety of mango named in honor of Dr. Willis T. Pope, Horticulturist at the Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station, 1920-37.

POPE MANGO:

A New, High Quality, Late-Ripening Mango Variety

R. A. Hamilton

Interest in growing mangoes in small home plantings as well as in commercial orchards continues at a high level in Hawaii. There are presently about 250 acres of mangoes in commercial production, mostly of the Haden variety.

Heavy production during on-years of bearing by a single commercial variety often results in a temporary surplus. This results in market gluts with resulting losses to growers because of the perishable nature of the fruit. Varieties which ripen earlier or later than Haden are urgently needed to extend the ripening season so that fresh mangoes can be available over a longer period of time.

Origin and Development

The Pope mango, formerly Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station No. 6972, a highly colored, excellent quality, late-maturing mango originating as a self-pollination seedling of the Irwin variety, was grown from seed planted in 1952 at the Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station at Poamoho. It has been named Pope in honor of Dr. Willis T. Pope, Horticulturist of the Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station from 1920 to 1937, now retired and living at Waimanalo, Oahu. Dr. Pope has been very active in mango selection and testing work and is the author of U.S.D.A. Bulletin No. 58, *Mango Culture in Hawaii*, and many other publications dealing with mangoes and other tropical fruits.

The Pope mango is considered to be a late variety, characteristically maturing in late July and August, usually a month or more after the Haden. Because of the late season of maturity, it can be expected to extend the season for fresh mangoes a month or more past the Haden season. This new mango variety retains the high color and tendency to heavy bearing of the Irwin parent, but the color of the flesh of Pope is deep orange, while that of Irwin is yellow. In quality, Pope is rated very good to excellent, while Irwin grown at the same location is rated only fair to good.

Disease Resistance

A common limiting factor in mango production in Hawaii is anthracnose of the flowers caused by *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*. This disease condition often becomes epidemic during rainy, humid weather which frequently occurs at flowering time. Varietal resistance has not been studied in detail, but certain varieties such as Itamaraca, Kurashige, and Fairchild have the capacity of setting better crops more consistently than most other varieties under rainy or humid conditions. The Pope also sets consistent crops, often flowering a second time when the first blossoming has been destroyed by anthracnose. The original Pope mango tree growing at the H.A.E.S. Poamoho Experimental Farm, Oahu, a location where rainy, humid weather is common during the flowering period and anthracnose epidemics are frequent, has set satisfactory crops every year since first flowering in 1956.

Tree and Fruit Characteristics

Tree: Upright in form and vigorous with well-shaped branches and strong L-shaped crotches; bearing, regular and in clusters. It is a very desirable type of tree for orchard culture.

Fruit: Ovate-oblong and plump, averaging about 4 inches long by 3 inches wide and from 10 ounces to a pound in weight. Stem set squarely on top; small beak located about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch above the apex. Undercolor, greenish-yellow with an attractive Currant Red¹ blush, usually extending over $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the fruit surface; prominent lenticels; abundant purplish bloom. Flesh, orange-yellow in color, firm, juicy, sweet, and almost fiberless. Quality, very good to excellent. A small amount of short fiber adheres to the ventral edge of the seed. The seed is small, narrow,

¹From Horticultural Color Chart, The British Colour Council. Page 167.

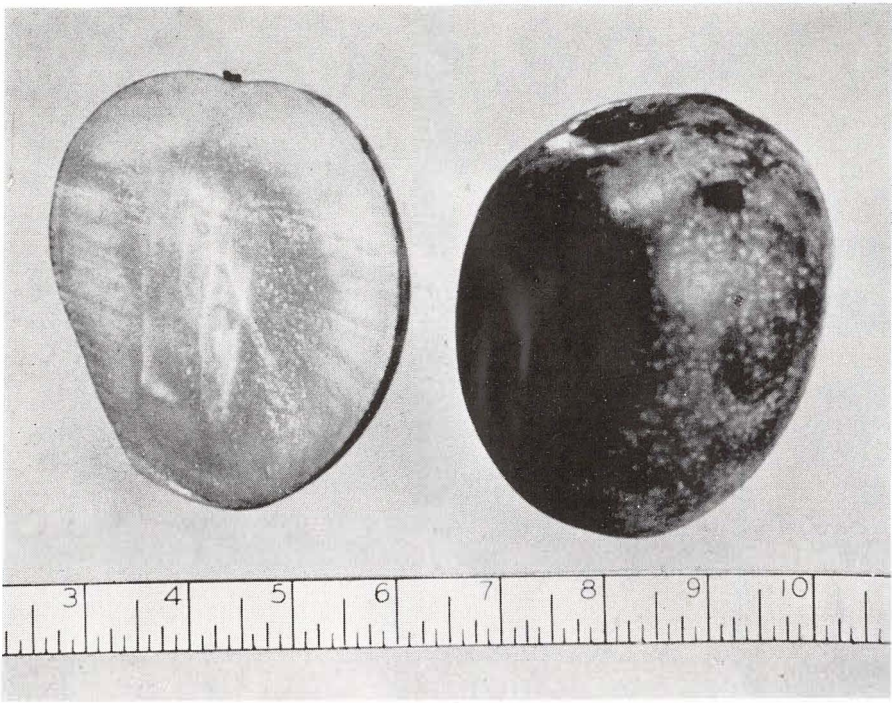


Fig. 1. Left: Longitudinal section through Pope mango showing seed. Right: Whole fruit.

and monoembryonic, comprising approximately 10 percent of the total weight of the fruit. In a comparative test in which flavor, texture, freedom from fiber, and flesh color were rated, Pope scored significantly higher than Haden, Pirie, and Zill. The fruit keeps well in storage after harvesting. Pope is recommended for home planting in Hawaii and is suggested for trial where a high quality, late season commercial variety is desired.

Distribution

Grafted trees and scions of the Pope mango are being distributed directly to commercial fruit tree nurseries and State Department of Agriculture and Conservation facilities on Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Hawaii, and Molokai. This distribution was made prior to the naming of the variety so that trees could be available to the public as soon as possible. The Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station does not have extra trees on hand and does not plan to propagate or distribute Pope mango trees in competition with commercial nurseries.

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